

Amendments to the Claims:

The below-listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. As presented, all claims remain original with the exception that claim 6 has a modified preamble.

Listing of claims:

1. (Original) An inkjet printhead having a body, comprising:
a heater chip attached to said body;
a nozzle plate on said heater chip, said nozzle plate having a periphery and plurality of nozzle holes; and
an encapsulant bead on said nozzle plate having a leading edge in a direction away from said periphery, said leading edge being less than about 500 microns from a closest one of said plurality of nozzle holes.
2. (Original) The inkjet printhead of claim 1, wherein said leading edge is in a range from about 100 to about 400 microns from said closest one of said plurality of nozzle holes.
3. (Original) The inkjet printhead of claim 1, wherein said leading edge is in a range from about 200 to about 300 microns from said closest one of said plurality of nozzle holes.
4. (Original) The inkjet printhead of claim 1, wherein said encapsulant bead overlies a lead beam.
5. (Original) The inkjet printhead of claim 1, wherein said encapsulant bead overlies a TAB circuit.

6. (Currently Amended) The inkjet [[circuit or]] printhead of claim 1, further including a tape on said nozzle plate, said tape overlying each of said plurality of nozzle holes, said tape not touching said encapsulant bead.

7. (Original) An inkjet printhead having a body, comprising:
a heater chip on said body;

a nozzle plate on said heater chip, said nozzle plate having a periphery and plurality of nozzle holes; and

an encapsulant bead on said nozzle plate and overlying said periphery, said encapsulant bead having a leading edge in a direction away from said periphery and toward said plurality of nozzle holes, said leading edge being less than about 400 microns from a closest one of said plurality of nozzle holes.

8. (Original) The inkjet printhead of claim 7, further including a tape covering each of said plurality of nozzle holes, said tape not touching said encapsulant bead.

9. (Original) The inkjet printhead of claim 8, wherein an edge of said tape is more than about 50 microns from any of said plurality of nozzle holes.

10. (Original) The inkjet printhead of claim 9, wherein said leading edge is in a range from about 100 to about 350 microns from said edge of said tape.

11. (Original) The inkjet printhead of claim 10, wherein said tape is a two layer tape having poly vinyl chloride and acrylic.

12. (Original) The inkjet printhead of claim 8, wherein said tape has a narrow width portion shorter than a width of said nozzle plate.
13. (Original) The inkjet printhead of claim 8, wherein said tape attaches to said body.
14. (Original) The inkjet printhead of claim 7, wherein said leading edge is in a range from about 200 to about 300 microns from said closest one of said plurality of nozzle holes.
15. (Original) An inkjet printhead having a body, comprising:
 - a heater chip on said body;
 - a nozzle plate on said heater chip, said nozzle plate having a plurality of nozzle holes;
 - an encapsulant bead on said nozzle plate; and
 - a tape on said nozzle plate covering each of said plurality of nozzle holes, said tape not touching said encapsulant bead.
16. (Original) The inkjet printhead of claim 15, wherein said encapsulant bead has a leading edge less than about 500 microns from said any of said plurality of nozzle holes.
17. (Original) The inkjet printhead of claim 15, wherein an edge of said tape is more than about 50 microns from a closest one of said plurality of nozzle holes.
18. (Original) The inkjet printhead of claim 15, wherein said encapsulant bead has a leading edge in a range from about 100 to about 350 microns from an edge of said tape.
19. (Original) The inkjet printhead of claim 15, wherein said tape has a narrow width

portion shorter than a width of said nozzle plate.

20. (Original) The inkjet printhead of claim 15, wherein said tape attaches to said body.

21. (Original) An inkjet printhead having a body, comprising:

a heater chip on said body;

a nozzle plate on said heater chip, said nozzle plate having a periphery and plurality of nozzle holes;

an encapsulant bead on said nozzle plate and overlying said periphery, said encapsulant bead having a leading edge in a direction away from said periphery and toward said plurality of nozzle holes, said leading edge being less than about 400 microns in a distance perpendicular to said periphery from any of said plurality of nozzle holes; and

a tape on said body and said nozzle plate covering each of said plurality of nozzle holes, said tape not touching said encapsulant bead.

22. (Original) The inkjet printhead of claim 21, wherein said tape has a narrow width portion shorter than a width of said nozzle plate.

23. (Original) The inkjet printhead of claim 21, wherein said encapsulant bead has an irregular boundary relative to said periphery.

24. (Original) The inkjet printhead of claim 21, wherein said leading edge is in a range from about 100 to about 300 microns from said any of said plurality of nozzle holes.

25. (Original) The inkjet printhead of claim 21, wherein said leading edge is in a range

from about 200 to about 300 microns from said any of said plurality of nozzle holes.

26. (Original) An inkjet printhead having a body, comprising:

a heater chip on said body;

a nozzle plate attached to said heater chip, said nozzle plate having a periphery and plurality of nozzle holes;

an encapsulant bead on said nozzle plate and overlying said periphery, said encapsulant bead having an irregular boundary with a leading edge extending in a direction away from said periphery and toward said plurality of nozzle holes, said leading edge being less than about 500 microns in a distance perpendicular to said periphery from any of said plurality of nozzle holes; and

a tape attached to said body and said nozzle plate covering each of said plurality of nozzle holes, said tape not touching said encapsulant bead, said tape having a narrow width portion shorter than a width of said nozzle plate.

27. (Original) The inkjet printhead of claim 26, wherein said tape further includes a wide portion longer than said width of said nozzle plate.

28. (Original) The inkjet printhead of claim 27, wherein said tape has one of an hourglass and an oar shape.

29. (Original) The inkjet printhead of claim 26, wherein said tape has a substantially rectangular shape and no portion thereof exceeds said width of said nozzle plate.